

Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

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O R 081040Z MAR 74O

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0103

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION OECD PARIS UNN

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 1436

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, PFOR, US, BE, EEC

SUBJ: US-EC RELATIONS

REF: BRUSSELS 1350

1. SUMMARY. DIRGEN DAVIGON HAS EXPRESSED DEEP CONCERN OVER REPORTED POSTPONEMENT OF MEETING ON US/EC DECLARATION AND IMPLICATIONS OF US VENTING ITS DISPLEASURE ON THE EC-8 AND NOT ON FRANCE. END SUMMARY.

2. DIRGEN DAVIGON, ACCOMPANIED BY AMBASSADOR DE STAERCKE RECEIVED ME TODAY TO EXPRESS DEEP CONCERN OVER REPORTED POSTPONEMENT
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OF SONNENFELDT-HARTMEN MEETING WITH EC-9. DAVIGNON FEARS POSTPONEMENT WILL STRIKE EC-8 AS MANIFESTATION OF US DISINTEREST IN OF NOT AVERSION TO EUROPEAN COMMUNITY. EC-8 WILL FIND IT WORRISOME AND MYSTIFYING THAT SECRETARY SEEMS TO BE VENTING DIS-

PLEASURE AT THE 8 BUT NOT AT THE ONE AND ONLY PARTY RESPONSIBLE FOR US-EC DIFFICULTIES, NAMELY FRANCE.

3. "WHY DON'T YOU TALK TOUGH TO THE FRENCH" SAID DVAIGON, "RATHER THAN TO THOSE OF US WHO HAVE BROKEN WITH FRANCEZM DAVIGNON ASKED WHETHER THE USG EXPECTS THE EC-8 TO BE MORE EFFECTIVE IN DEALING WITH FRANCE THAN, THUS FAR, THE US HAS BEEN.

4. RETURNING TO QUESTION OF CONSULTATIONS, DAVIGNON SAID IT WAS NOT TRUE THAT THE EC-9 FAILED TO CONSULT ABOUT THE EC POSITION TOWARDS COOPERATION WITH ARAB COUNTRIES. SCHEEL TALKED WITH SECRETARY FOR SEVERAL HOURS MARCH 3 AND COVERED EC-9 PAPER RE COOPERATION WITH ARABS. US OBJECTIONS WERE DISCUSSED AND TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT ON MARCH 4. DAVIGNON ASKED IF WE WERE NOT ELEVATING CONSULTATIONS INTO THE REALM OF DOGMA AND DEPARTING FROM THE TRADITIONAL DIPLOMATIC PRACTICE OF PROCEEDING STEP BY STEP ON THE BASIS OF FACTS AND ACTIONS. AMONG FRIENDS, CONSULTATIONS SHOULD NOT HAVE TO BE ALWAYS PERFECT AND CONTINUOUS AT EVERY STAGE OF EITHER SIDE'S DECISION-MAKING PROCESS.

5. DAVIGNON OBSERVED THAT EC-9 ACTION ON MARCH 4 REPRESENTED LESS A "DECISION" THAN THE ADOPTION OF A "POSITION" WHICH NECESSARILY NEEDS BRITISH AGREEMENT BEFORE IT COULD QUALIFY AS A "DECISION".

6. I TOLD DAVIGNON WE TRUSTED THAT THE EC-8 WOULD SHOW THEMSELVES CAPABLE OF MAKING AN ACTIVE, CREATIVE CONTRIBUTION TO THE WORK OF THE ENERGY COORDINATING GROUP, CLEARLY DEMONSTRATING A DETERMINATION TO COOPERATE EFFECTIVELY RATHER THAN SEEKING TO PLACATE US. DAVIGNON SAID THIS WAS THE PATH ALREADY CHOSEN BY THE EC-8. I SAID THAT BECAUSE OF THE DELICACY OF THE NEGOTIATIONS IN THE MIDDLE EAST WE HAD BEEN CONCERNED THAT THE EC-9 PROJECT FOR COOPERATION WITH THE ARABS MIGHT CUT ACROSS WHAT WE ARE DOING THERE AND ALSO DOING JOINTLY IN THE ENERGY COORDINATING GROUP. GIVEN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES WE DID NOT CONSIDER THAT EC HAD CONSULTED WITH US ADEQUATELY.
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7. COMMENT: I AM CERTAIN THAT THE BELGIAN CONCERNS ARE REAL AND THAT THE GOB FEARS WE ARE FRUSTRATING OUR FRIENDS AND PLAYING INTO THE HANDS OF THE FRENCH. STRAUSSZ-HUPE

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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